

Commonwealth of Virginia
Department of Social Services



ONS TRANSMITTAL NUMBER 06-04

Date: July 21, 2006

☐ ACTION ITEM

☒ INFORMATIONAL ITEM

Subject: Letter Being Mailed to Medicaid Recipients
on New Medicaid Citizenship and Identity Requirements

To: ONS Resettlement Provider Directors

From: Kathy A. Cooper
Virginia State Refugee Coordinator
Virginia Office of Newcomer Services

Contact: Penny Boyd at penny.boyd@dss.virginia.gov or 804-726-7933

ONS Transmittal 06-03 told you about new policy effective July 1, 2006 which makes verification of citizenship and identity a part of the Medicaid eligibility process and explained that this change does not affect qualified aliens, including refugees, asylees, Amerasians, Victims of Human Trafficking, and Cuban/Haitian entrants.

This transmittal is to alert you to a letter the Department of Medical Assistance Services is sending to all Medicaid recipients telling them that they will need to provide proof of citizenship and identity at the time that their Medicaid is renewed. Letters began being mailed July 19, and mailings will continue through July 24.

The letter is attached for your information. The fifth paragraph of the letter states that "*This new law does not apply to persons . . . who are not United States citizens.*"

ONS wanted you to be aware of this letter in the event that you receive calls from refugee clients who do not understand the information contained in the letter.. If refugees experience any difficulty in the Medicaid recertification process due to this new requirement, please let Penny Boyd know.

Attachment (1)



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Medical Assistance Services

PATRICK W. FINNERTY
DIRECTOR

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RICHMOND, VA 23219
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www.dmas.virginia.gov

July 19, 2006

Dear Medicaid Enrollee:

I am writing to alert you about a new federal law. Medicaid applicants and recipients who are U.S. citizens are now required to prove their citizenship and identity. When it is time for your Medicaid renewal, your eligibility worker will ask you to provide this information.

People who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or are Medicare beneficiaries do not have to provide this information because the Social Security Administration has already verified your citizenship and identity.

Please look at the back of this letter to see the types of documents you will need. Copies of your documents will be made for your case record. Please try to get these papers now so you can prove your U.S. citizenship and your identity when you renew your Medicaid.

Your eligibility worker may be able to get some of the information from your case file or other agencies. You will get a letter that explains exactly what papers you need to provide. You are only required to do this one time. Please contact your worker at the time of your renewal if you need help with this.

This new law does not apply to persons enrolled in FAMIS, FAMIS MOMS, State and Local Hospitalization, or individuals who are not United States citizens. It also does not apply to parents or guardians who are not applying for or receiving Medicaid for themselves. If you have any questions concerning this new law, please contact your eligibility worker.

Many state agencies are working together to make sure that all U.S. Citizens in Virginia who need Medicaid will continue to be served. Thank you for doing as much as you can to get the required documents ready for your next Medicaid renewal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P W Finnerty".

Patrick W. Finnerty

See back of letter

PROOF OF U.S. CITIZENSHIP & IDENTITY FOR MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY

You can prove your Citizenship and Identity with **ONE** document, if you have a:

- U.S. passport (even if it is expired);
- Certificate of Naturalization; or
- Certificate of U.S Citizenship

If you don't have the above, you will need to show **TWO** Documents - one for Citizenship and one for Identity.

1. Citizenship documents are

- Official Birth Certificate (not hospital souvenirs, such as certificates with the baby's footprints or crib cards),
- Final Adoption Decree,
- Official Military Record,
- Life or Health Insurance records from 5 years ago (showing date / place of birth), or
- Admission papers to a nursing home / other institution from 5 years ago (showing date / place of birth).
- If none of these is available, you can still prove you are a U.S. Citizen with signed, sworn statements. Your eligibility worker will help you with this.

2. Identity documents are:

- Driver's license with a photograph and other information,
- School ID cards with a picture,
- Military (including dependents) ID cards, or
- ID cards issued by federal, state, or local governments with the same information as a driver's license.
- For children under age 16 - school records, nursery or child care records, or an affidavit signed by the parent or guardian stating the date and place of birth.

If you have any questions, please contact your eligibility worker.